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# share the **ROAD**

*Responsibilities & Laws  
for Cyclists, Pedestrians  
& Motorists*



Montana Department  
of Transportation



# Sharing the Road: Responsibilities & Laws

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## For Cyclists

- Obey all traffic rules, signals, and signs. Operate a bicycle as you would any other vehicle.
- Always wear a bicycle helmet.
- Travel as far to the right as practical unless you are passing another vehicle or making a left-hand turn. *Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 61-8-605(2)*
- Travel in single file and in a straight line. *MCA 61-8-605(4)*
- At night, cyclists need to have both a visible white front light and a red rear-facing light. *MCA 61-8-607*
- Ride predictably. Always ride in the same direction as other traffic — never against traffic.
- Always signal your intent.
- Always scan ahead for hazards.
- Ride defensively. Be aware of traffic movement.
- Check for traffic, or “shoulder check” for traffic, before signaling.
- Ride two to three feet away from parked vehicles to avoid being “doored.”
- Yield to pedestrians.
- Avoid cell phones and headphones when riding.
- Watch for motor vehicles when exiting driveways and alleys.

- Adults should not ride on sidewalks.
- Be visible—wear light-colored reflective clothing.

## For Pedestrians

- Look left, right, left before crossing any street.
- Walk on the right side of a shared-use path or sidewalk. This allows other users to pass with ease.
- Pedestrians must obey the instructions of all traffic control devices and pedestrian control signals. *MCA 61-8-501*
- Pedestrians must yield to all emergency vehicles. *MCA 61-8-515*
- When provided, sidewalks should be used, and pedestrians may not walk along adjacent roadways. *MCA 61-8-506(1)*
- A person operating a manual or mechanically propelled wheelchair or device is granted the privileges and subject to the restrictions of pedestrians. *MCA 61-8-501(5)*

## For Motorists

- Expect cyclists on the road at any time.
- Reduce speed when encountering cyclists.
- Always signal your intent.
- Ensure safe conditions before passing a cyclist, allowing adequate space between you and the cyclist. Don't pass if it's not safe.
- Realize motor vehicles create turbulence and recognize hazardous conditions that may affect cyclists.

- Don't honk when approaching cyclists. A sudden reaction may cause a cyclist to crash or veer into traffic.
- Limit inattentive driving by avoiding cell phones, headphones, and other distractions.
- Watch for cyclists and pedestrians when exiting driveways and alleys.
- Obey all traffic laws, signals, and signs.
- Vehicle operators must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at an intersection. *MCA 61-8-502(1)(b)*
- Vehicle operators may not proceed through a column of school children crossing a roadway or past a school crossing guard directing children across a roadway. *MCA 61-8-502(3)*
- Vehicle operators must yield the right-of-way to a blind pedestrian who is carrying a visible white cane or who is accompanied by a guide dog. *MCA 61-8-516*
- Motor vehicles may not be driven or parked in a bicycle lane that is signed and delineated as a bicycle lane by official traffic control devices. *MCA 61-8-328(6)*

